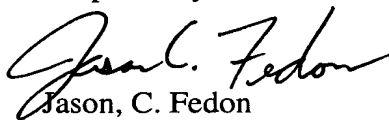


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made upon entry of International Application No. PCT/US03/10177 into the U.S. National Phase of prosecution. In the specification, a new paragraph has been added to the first line of the specification to include the priority information. An Abstract on a separate sheet is attached as required under 37 CFR 1.72(b). Claims 3 to 5 have been amended. Entry of this amendment into the record is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates generally to the construction of sub-genomic HCV replicon systems that may provide the foundation for generating HCV replicons of all six major genotypes and subtypes to facilitate screening, testing, and evaluating anti-infective agents for HCV disease(s).